

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 /086 W

----- 054270

R 161137Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3569

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LUANDA 0603

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES UPON HIS DEPARTURE
FROM LUANDA

1. UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM LUANDA AFTER A TWO DAY VISIT, PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES MADE A PRESS STATEMENT ON THE MAJOR ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING HIS TRIP: A SUMMIT MEETING, PORTUGUESE REFUGEES, AND FOREIGN THREATS TO ANGOLA. WHILE IN LUANDA ANTUNES MET WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, JONAS SAVIMBI OF UNITA, AGOSTINHO NETO OF MPLA AND JOHNNY EDUARDO OF FNLA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT.

2. ANTUNES SAID THAT THERE WOULD SOON PROBABLY BE A SUMMIT MEETING OF THE HEADS OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITHOUT PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION. AFTERWARDS THERE WOULD LIKELY BE A FOLLOW-UP MEETING BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE AND THE LEADERS OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO KEEP THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS MOVING.

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3. HE TRIED TO REASSURE THE PORTUGUESE IN ANGOLA THAT

PORTUGAL WOULD ASSIST THE RETURN TO THE METROPOLE OF THOSE MADE HOMELESS BY THE RECENT FIGHTING. IN AN ATTEMPT TO STEM THE TIDE OF REFUGEES HE ASKED PORTUGUESE TO REMAIN CALM AND NOT TO FLEE AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE. HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT OF THE ABILITY AND INTENTION OF THE LEADERS OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION AND TO PERMIT PORTUGUESE SAFELY TO REMAIN IN ANGOLA.

4. ASKED BY A REPORTER TO COMMENT ON NETO'S RECENT STATEMENT IN LISBON THAT FOREIGN FORCES WERE PREPARED TO INVADE ANGOLA, HE SAID THERE "IS NO CONCRETE PROOF THAT BRINGS US TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE EXISTS THE THREAT OF EXTERNAL AGGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA." HE ADDED "IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE" BUT HE FELT THE LIBERATION LEADERS WERE "AWARE OF THE THREATS", WOULD "DENOUNCE THEIR ENEMIES" AND "WOULD REMAIN PREPARED TO ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DEFENSE OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY."
KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, PRESS CONFERENCES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUANDA00603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0440
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750545/aaaaboss.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM LUANDA
TAGS: PINT, AO, (AUTUNES, MELO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006